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Metro Board Approves Historic Project Labor Agreement and Construction Careers Policy

The Metro board of Directors unanimously approved a historic Project Labor Agreement (PLA) and Construction Careers Policy on Thursday, January 26, in a move that will significantly increase the number of workers from disadvantaged areas to be hired on the agency's multi-billion-dollar transit projects.

The agreement, sponsored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and supported by a broad coalition of labor organizations, community activists and other elected officials, turns the transit agency into one of the most powerful job-creation and anti-poverty engines in the country.

Under the provisions of the labor agreement, 40% of workers hired must come from low-income neighborhoods, and 10% must be disadvantaged — meaning they meet at least two of nine criteria, including homelessness, chronic unemployment, and are veterans.

This is a matter of justice," said the Supervisor to cheers during a rally after the vote. "As a result of this groundbreaking victory, Los Angeles is now a model for the rest of the nation. We have demonstrated that job creation — and not the creation of just any jobs, but highly skilled union jobs that lead to a middle class

standard of living for workers — can and should be a standard component in transportation infrastructure projects.”

The Crenshaw-to-LAX Light Rail Line, expected to break ground this winter, will be one of the first projects under this new policy.

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